

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 04750 01 OF 02 070727Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07  
LAB-04 SIL-01 ACDA-07 OES-07 /112 W  
-----082390 070839Z /16

R 070533Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7388  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 4750

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT ELAB PFOR TS  
SUBJECT: PSD CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

1. SUMMARY: THE DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE HELD ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON JULY 1 AND 2. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT TUNISIAN HISTORY PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA DID NOT MAKE A MAJOR SPEECH TO THE COMMITTEE AND LEFT PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA TO OUTLINE AND JUSTIFY BROAD LINES OF GOVT POLICY. PRESIDENT DID, HOWEVER, ADDRESS BRIEF REMARKS TO CLOSING SESSION OF COMMITTEE IN WHICH HE PRAISED NOUIRA FOR HIS SPEECH AND FOR HIS SERIOUSNESS, HONESTY AND COMPETENCE. NOUIRA'S SPEECH AT OPENING SESSION FOCUSED ON FIFTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND RECENTLY CONCLUDED ELECTIONS TO RENEW LEADERSHIP OF PSD CELLS. NOUIRA ATTACKED OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, NAMELY BEN SALAHISTS AND "LIBERAL/ SOCIAL DEMOCRATS," AND ASSERTED THAT PSD IS OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC AND THAT THEY HAVE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR WORKING OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM. NOUIRA ALSO DIRECTLY CRITICIZED TRADE UNION MOVEMENT FOR COMPLAINING THAT WORKERS' INCOME IS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 04750 01 OF 02 070727Z

LAGGING BEHIND OTHER SECTORS. NOUIRA HAD NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY DESPITE TUNISIA'S RECENT CONFLICT WITH LIBYA AND EVOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SPD CENTRAL COMMITTEE A BODY OF 60 ELECTED MEMBERS

PLUS THE 18 GOVERNORS AND 18 SECRETARIES GENERAL OF THE

PARTY'S REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES, HELD ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON JULY 1 AND 2. BREAKING WITH TRADITION, PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA DID NOT ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE'S OPENING SESSION BUT LEFT PRIME MINISTER NOUWRA TO OUTLINE AND DEFEND GOT POLICY. BOURGUIBA DID ADDRESS BRIEF REMARKS TO THE COMMITTEE'S CLOSING SESSION, HELD AT THE PALACE IN CARTHAGE, IN WHICH HE PRAISED NOUIRA FOR HIS MAGISTRAL SPEECH AND FOR HIS SERIOUSNESS, HONESTY, AND COMPETENCE. BOURGUIBA ALSO SAID HIS "CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE WAS QUICKLY DISSIPATED SINCE TUNISIA IS NOW GOVERNED BY SINCERE AND COMPETENT MEN."

3. NOUIRA'S LENGTHY SPEECH TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOCUSED ON THE FIFTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE INAUGURATED THIS YEAR AND IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. NOUIRA HAD NOTHING NEW TO SAY ABOUT THE PLAN AND ITS FINANCING. NOUIRA SPOKE AT LENGTH ON RECENTLY CONCLUDED ELECTIONS IN ALL OF THE PSD'S 1800 CELLS. HE NOTED THE INFLUX OF NEW, YOUNGER ACTIVISTS INTO PARTY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AT LOCAL LEVEL AND POINTED TO THIS AND BROAD PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS AS EVIDENCE THAT PSD REMAINS A VIBRANT ORGANIZATION THAT PROPERLY CHANNELS POPULAR CONCERNS TO TOP LEADERS. THE ELECTIONS JUSTIFY, NOUIRA SSID, TUNISIA'S REMAINING A SINGLE-PARTY STATE AND HE ASSERTED THAT TUNISIA IS FULLY AS DEMOCRATIC AS MULTI-PARTY STATES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 04750 01 OF 02 070727Z

4. IN HIS SPEECH, NOUIRA AIMED DIRECT ATTACKS AT BEN SALAHIST AND "LIBERAL/SOCIAL DEMOCRAT" OPPOSITION ELEMENTS. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA JOINED THESE ATTACKS AS WELL BY NOTING IN HIS REMARKS THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD THAT ANY PARTY CELL MEMBER HAD CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF ANY NEW DEMOCRATIC OR LIBERAL PARTY NOR FOR ANY MOVEMENT OF POPULAR UNION. "THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO BE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS OR OTHER IMPOSTERS ARE PREACHING IN THE DESERT," THE PSD DAILY L'ACTION QUOTED HIM AS SAYING.

5. NOUIRA'S SPEECH ALSO HAD HARSH WORDS FOR THE UGTT. DISCUSSING THE GOT'S ECONOMIC POLICY AND ITS COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE, NOUIRA SAID THAT ANYONE WHO COMPARES SALARY INCOME WITH OTHER INCOMES AND COMPLAINS THAT ONE HAS EXPANDED LESS RAPIDLY THAN ANOTHER ONLY SHOWS HOW IGNORANT HE IS. THIS STATEMENT WAS A DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE UGTT'S MANIFESTO PUBLISHED IN MARCH (SEE TUNIS A-74) THAT CLAIMED WORKERS WERE NOT GETTING THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TUNISIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH. NOUIRA CHARACTERIZED SUCH CLAIMS OF GROWING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AS BEING "PURE FABRICATION," AND ASSERTED THAT MOST OF THE NEWLY CREATED WEALTH IN TUNISIA ACCRUES TO THE STATE AND IS REINVESTED

IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

6. SIGNIFICANTLY, NOUIRA'S SPEECH HAD NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY, A SUBJECT THAT IS USUALLY COVERED IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS. MANY TUNISIANS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY LOOKING FOR SOME INDICATION OF TRENDS IN RELATIONS WITH LIBYA ONE MONTH AFTER SERIOUS CONFRONTATION OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. ALSO, CENTRAL COMMITTEE SPEECHES NORMALLY INCLUDE REMARKS ON THE GOT'S VIEW OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 04750 02 OF 02 070732Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07  
LAB-04 SIL-01 ACDA-07 OES-07 /112 W  
-----082444 070837Z /10

R 070533Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7389  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 4750

7. NOUIRA'S FAILURE TO MENTION FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS NOTED BY ONE OF HIS CHIEF OPPONENTS, "LIBERAL/SOCIAL DEMOCRAT" LEADER AHMED MESTIRI. ON JULY 2 MESTIRI PUBLISHED A STATEMENT REFUTING NOUIRA'S ATTACKS ON HIS GROUP. MESTIRI SCOFFED AT NOUIRA'S CLAIM TO BE AMAN OF DIALOGUE AND OPENNESS, POINTING OUT THAT THE GOT HAD DENIED TO MESTIRI'S GROUP THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH A NEWSPAPER AND TO HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING. MESTIRI DECLARED AS WELL THAT ALL TUNISIANS KNOW WHO NEARLY GOT THE COUNTRY INTO A GRAVE CRISIS WITH LIBYA. "HAPPILY," MESTIRI SAID, BOURGUIBA IS STILL WITH US TO SWEEP AWAY STUPIDITIES AND CORRECT ERRORS." MESTIRI ALSO SAID TUNISIANS KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "UNFORTUNATE FISCAL MEASURES THAT WERE QUICKLY WITHDRAWN" AND ASSERTED THAT THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY (THAT HE SAID WAS MARKED BY SOCIAL MALAISE, ECONOMIC DRIFT, DETERIORATION OF THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AND THE DISQUIET OF YOUTH) IS MORE ELOQUENT THAN SPEECHES. THESE WERE PROBLEMS, MESTIRI SLASHED, THAT NOUIRA FORGOT

TO TALK ABOUT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

3. THIS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING APPEARS TO BE SIGNIFICANT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 04750 02 OF 02 070732Z

FOR THREE PRINCIPAL REASONS. FIRST, BOURGUIBA'S MARGINAL PARTICIPATION, WHILE NOT UNEXPECTED, SIGNALS A FURTHER WITHDRAWAL FROM ACTIVE CONTROL OF NATIONAL POLITICS. SECOND, NOUIRA'S FAILURE TO DISCUSS FOREIGN POLICY INDICATES THAT HE IS STILL SMARTING FROM THE RECENT CONFLICT WITH LIBYA OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS UNSURE OF THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF THIS ON-GOING DISPUTE WITH ITS TROUBLESOME NEIGHBOR. FINALLY, BOTH NOUIRA AND THE PRESIDENT LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THEY INTEND TO GIVE NO GROUND TO THEIR POLITICAL OPPONENTS AND THAT THEY ARE COMMITTED TO PERPETUATE THE DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY'S EXCLUSIVE ROLE AT THE NATION'S SOLE POLITICAL INSTITUTION. WHILE NOUIRA AND BOURGUIBA WERE REPORTEDLY IN DISAGREEMENT OVER TUNISIAN POLICY CONCERNING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE WITH LIBYA, THEY APPARENTLY STILL SPEAK WITH THE SAME VOICE IN OPPOSING ANY EVOLUTION TOWARD DOMESTIC POLITICAL PLURALISM.  
MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY MEETINGS, POLITICAL PARTIES, MEETING PROCEEDINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TUNIS04750  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770240-1245  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TUNIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770780/aaaacrxv.tel  
**Line Count:** 196  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** a2f9146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1931373  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PSD CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING  
**TAGS:** PINT, ELAB, PFOR, TS, PSD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a2f9146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009